

Message Text

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11
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FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
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SECDEF WASHDC
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
INFO COMUSTDC TAIPEI
CINCPACFLT MAKALAPA HI
COMSEVENTHFLT
CHMAAG ROC TAIPEI
327AD TAIPEI AS TW
AMCONSUL HONG KONG

UNCLAS TAIPEI 4802

CINCPAC FOR J-74; SECDEF FOR ASD/PA

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

JOINT EMBASSY/TDC MESSAGE

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MILI, TW, US
SUBJECT: SHARK, HUNT EXERCISE - NEWS STORIES

1. FOLLOWING ARE THE TEXTS OF SELECTED STORIES CONCERNING
THE RECENT US-ROC COMBINED SHARK HUNT EXERCISE. BACKGROUND
DISCUSSION OF THIS MATTER IS BEING FORWARDED SEPTTEL.

2. TEXT OF AP STORY APPEARING IN JULY 29 STARS & STRIPES:

A. "AMERICAN AND NATIONALIST CHINESE NAVAL SHIPS HAVE
CONCLUDED A WEEK-LONG EXERCISE NAMED 'OPERATION SHARK
HUNTING' OFF SOUTHERN TAIWAN, OFFICIALS SAID SUNDAY.

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B. "THEY SAID THE EXERCISE WAS ROUTINE, CONDUCTED IN
ACCORDANCE WITH THE U.S.-TAIWAN MUTUAL DEFENSE TREATY
AND 'VERY SUCCESSFUL.' THEY GAVE NO OTHER DETAILS."

3. TEXT OF STORY IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE CHINA NEWS JULY 27:

A. "THE CHINESE AND UNITED STATES NAVIES HELD A JOINT EXERCISE OFF THE KAOHSIUNG COAST IN THE MIDDLE OF THIS MONTH, MAJOR GEN. LI CHANG-HAO, THE SPOKESMAN OF MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEFENSE SAID YESTERDAY.

B. "'THE JOINT EXERCISE IS VERY SUCCESSFUL,' LI DISCLOSED AT A TV INTERVIEW. THE JOINT EXERCISE, HE ASSERTED PROVED A HIGH DEGREE OF COOPERATION AC OUTSTANDING COMBAT CAPABILITIES OF THE TWO NAVIES. HE DID NOT ELABORATE.

C. "HOWEVER, SOME SOURCES REPORTED THAT THE JOINT SINO-US NAVAL WAR GAME IS CARRIED OUT UNDER THE CODE NAME 'OPERATION SHARK HUNTING.' BOTH SIDES PROVIDED SHIPS OF 'ALMOST EQUAL STRENGTH,' AND THE NAVAL MANEUVERS LASTED ABOUT ONE WEEK.

D. "UNDER THE JOINT NAVAL EXERCISE, ONE SIDE PLAYED THE OFFENSIVE ROLE, AND THE OTHER SIDE THE DEFENDERS. BOTH DEMONSTRATED SUPERIOR COMBAT CAPABILITIES, THE SOURCES SAID.

E. "OFFICIAL SOURCES CALLED THE NAVAL WAR GAME A 'ROUTINE MILITARY EXERCISE' BETWEEN THE TWO ALLIED COUNTRIES. THE MILITARY AUTHORITIES ON BOTH SIDES PAID SERIOUS ATTENTION TO SUCH OPERATION, AND JOINT MILITARY EXERCISES 'WERE HELD ON A REGULAR BASIS,' THE SOURCES POINTED OUT. ASIDE FROM THE JULY EXERCISE, THE SOURCES RECALLED, A SINO-US AIR AND SEA RESCUE OPERATION WAS HELD TWO MONTHS AGO IN CENTRAL AND SOUTH TAIWAN.

F. "QUALIFIED MILITARY OBSERVERS COMMENTED THAT IN THE LAST TWO YEARS, JOINT MILITARY WAR GAMES BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES WERE HELD BUT WERE NOT PUBLICIZED.
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THIS SITUATION IS DIFFERENT FROM THE PAST YEARS WHEN JOINT NAVAL AND AIR MANEUVERS WERE FULLY COVERED BY THE PRESS. A LEADING AMERICAN NEWS MAGAZINE REPORTED IN ITS RECENT EDITION THAT ALTHOUGH THE U.S. IS REDUCING ITS MILITARY PRESENCE IN TAIWAN, THE 'ANTI-CONTINGENCY' MILITARY EXERCISE IS HELD IN TAIWAN WITH THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA AS IN THE PAST.

G. "LOCAL PRESS REPORTS ALSO SAID THAT SINO-AMERICAN MILITARY COOPERATION HAS BEEN CARRYING ON SMOOTHLY IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE MUTUAL DEFENSE TREATY. FOR INSTANCE, THE JOINT MANUFACTURING OF THE F-5E FREEDOM FIGHTER IN TAIWAN IS BEING VIGOROUSLY

EXECUTED ACCORDING TO THE SCHEDULE, AND THE U.S.
SEVENTH FLEET IS PATROLLING IN TAIWAN STRAIT."
UNGER

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